

A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough

About our Shakespeare-Tang Xianzu project

The poet's eye, in fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;
And as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.

- Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream 5:1

The vitality of writing in the world relies on extraordinary talented people. A talented person with extraordinary skills will have an open mind, which can fly up to the sky, down to the earth, back to the past or forward to the future. It can be free beyond life or death. Freedom is omnipotent.

- Tang Xianzu, Preface to Works by Qiu Zhaolin

In August 2014, inspired by Shakespeare's "poet's eye" that glances "from heaven to earth ..." and Tang Xianzu's "open mind" that "can fly up to the sky, down to the earth ...", the Universities of Leeds in the UK and International Business and Economics (UIBE) in China launched the project "William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu: celebrating a 400 year legacy" to mark the 2016 400th anniversary of the deaths of two legendary playwrights. At the centre of the project, surrounded by series of seminars and workshops, is the stage production *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough*. With the two texts and the overarching theme of "dreaming", students and staff from two universities have created a new work. The creative team at the UIBE presents a piece inspired by the young lovers and fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer* while Leeds offers a contemporary response to Tang Xianzu's *Nanke Ji*.

Starting from an "airy nothing", we present a magical experience that is "back to the past" and "forward to the future". We thank those who have given so much to ensure the realisation of this project. A million thanks!

Li Ruru Curator and Producer

关于"莎士比亚和汤显祖"项目

诗人的眼睛,充满着狂热,一下子从天上看到地下,从地下直望到天上;在他的"想象"中孕育了形形色色无可名状的东西,诗人的笔头一转,他们便成了形,"虚无缥缈"便有了落脚的场所,还捞到一个名称。

- 莎士比亚,《仲夏夜之梦》第五幕,第一场

天下文章所以有生气者,全在奇士。士奇则心灵,心灵则能飞动,能飞动则下上天地,来去古今,可以屈伸长短生灭如意,如意则可以无所不如。

- 汤显祖, 《序丘毛伯稿》

是莎士比亚那可以从天上看到地下的"诗人的眼"与汤显祖那能飞动下上天地,来去古今的"奇士之心",指引英国利兹大学和中国对外经贸大学于2014年8月启动了"威廉·莎士比亚和汤显祖:欢庆四百年文化遗产"这一国际项目,以纪念两位戏剧大家2016年逝世400周年。

在项目安排的系列讲座和工作坊的中心是舞台演出《仲夏夜梦南柯》。以共同的主题"梦"为连接,两地师生重新诠释原作并呈现崭新的舞台作品。对外经贸大学的创作团队以莎士比亚经典《仲夏夜之梦》中的年轻恋人和仙子为启发进行创作,英国利兹大学的师生则以当代艺术形式重新演绎汤显祖的《南柯记》。

起始于"无可名状",今天在舞台上"来去古今"。我们感谢所有为这个项目作贡献的人,在此奉献上无穷尽的、深深的谢意!

李如茹 策划与制作







李军博士毕业于香港中文大学, 现在对外经济贸易大学英语学院任教

LI Jun teaches English drama at University of International Business and Economics in Beijing

导演语 Director's words:

槐,木中之鬼,中国古代不乏将其与魅幻奇梦相联的传说,其中最为流传的是源自唐朝的"南柯一梦",后来汤显祖正是据此写下《南柯记》。此树亦给我们带来创作灵感——这部改编于《仲夏夜之梦》的作品将莎剧中的雅典附近的森林挪到了一家有中国特色的"槐树爱巢"旅馆,由此展开一个与原剧迥然不同的新梦,向观众展示当代中国年轻人在追求爱情与发现自我过程中的选择、困惑和希望。

Sophora, wood ghost, is a tree often associated with fantastic apparitions and dreams in ancient Chinese legends and tales. The most popular, *Nanke Dream*, dates back to the Tang Dynasty, and is the source of *A Dream Under the Southern Bough*, written by Tang Xianzu. For our adaptation, this tree also gave us the inspiration to change the location of the wood near Athens in Shakespeare's comedy to a Chinese milieu, Sophora Nest Hotel. We have rendered a new dream and exhibit to the audience the choices, confusions and hopes of contemporary youth in their pursuit of true love and self-identity.





Steve Ansell is the Artistic Director of stage@leeds and the stage@leedscompany, University of Leeds

斯蒂夫·安塞尔,利兹大学利兹舞台、利兹舞台 演出团艺术总监

Director's words 导演语:

The journey of *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough* started in Shanghai in 2012 when I first visited China. Working with *The Sun is Not for Us*, a new play commemorating Chinese playwright Cao Yu's centenary, it became apparent that there was a wealth of wonderful stories and classical Chinese plays that were unknown in the West and often overlooked by audiences in China. The 400th Anniversary of the deaths of William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu presents the perfect opportunity to revisit, re-imagine and reposition Tang for a contemporary audience both in China and the UK as a contemporary of Shakespeare and as a master storyteller in his own right.

我的《仲夏夜梦南柯》之旅始于2012年上海。那是我第一次去中国。通过参与一出纪念中国剧作大师曹禺百年诞辰的戏剧——《太阳不是我们的》,我发现很多伟大的中国经典戏剧和故事并不为西方所知,甚至也被很多中国观众所忽略。纪念莎士比亚和汤显祖逝世四百周年为中英两地当代观众提供了一个重新了解、想象及定位汤显祖的机会,让他们了解汤显祖作为莎士比亚的同代人,自身也是一位伟大的说故事的人。



A Midsummer Night's DREAMING 主创团队 Creative Team

导演 Director 表演顾问 Performing Advisors

剧本改编 Adaptation 中文 Chinese 英文 English 布景设计 Set Design 音乐作曲 Music 服装设计 Costume 舞台监督 Stage Manager

制作监督 Production Manager 制作助理 Assistant 李军 LI Jun 沙作颖 SHA Zuoying 邢天泽 XING Tianze

王冰莹 WANG Bingying 李军 LI Jun & Lucy Nordberg 王七许 WANG Qixu 张国琨 ZHANG Guokun 孙伟琪 SUN Weiqi & 刘莹 LIU Ying 王冰莹 WANG Bingying

徐文兵 XU Wenbing 黄戈林 HUANG Gelin 张炜杰 ZHANG Weijie



DREAMING Under the Southern Bough Creative Team 主创团队

Director 导演 Adaptation 改编 Costume Design 服装 Set Design 布景设计 Lighting Design 灯光设计 Lighting Operator 灯光操作 Sound Design 音效设计 Translation & Titles 翻译与字幕

Curator & Producer 策划与制作 Assistant Producers 制作助理

Project Interns 项目实习生

Technical Support 技术支持

Production Photography 演出摄影

Steve Ansell
Adam Strickson & Steve Ansell
Allana Marsh & Sophie Barnett
Steve Ansell & Helen Russell-Brown
Andrew Mills & Natalie McLoughlin
Johnny Dowsett
Steve Ansell
YANG Long 杨陇

LI Ruru 李如茹 ZHAO Yelin 赵烨琳 WU Fan 吴凡 HU Xiaoting 胡晓婷 TU An-sheng 杜安生

Andrew Mills Ian Lindley Natalie McLoughlin Jess Rowland

Malcolm Johnson



演员 Cast ST@UIBE

陈汝晴 CHEN Ruqing

韩念欣 HAN Nianxin

黄扬昕 HUANG Yangxin

沈哲远 SHEN Zheyuan

孙石仲 SUN Shizhong

孙韵婍 SUN Yunqi

石函冰 SHI Hanbing

海雳娜 Helena

赖尚得 Lysander

理智精灵 Spirit of Sense

狄米特屈斯 Demetrius

中和精灵 Spirit of Moderation

赫米丫 Hermia

性情精灵 Spirit of Sensitivity



Cast 演员 stage@leedscompany

Liam Ashmore Sam 山姆

CAO Xinyi 曹心怡 Juana 觉安

Ant 24602 蝼蚁24602

George Clifford Charles Fenn/Chunyu 查尔斯·棼 / 淳于

Arlie Haslam Queen Ant 蝼蚁国女王

Rattan Sandalwood Warrior 檀萝国武士

Terri Hyde Qiongying 琼英

Nun 尼姑

Ant 843 蝼蚁843

Nun 尼姑

Ellice Price Maya 玛雅

Milly Stell Princess Yaofang 瑶芳公主

Rachel Turner Prince Rattan Sandalwood 檀萝国王子

Ant 1616 蝼蚁1616



邂逅莎士比亚

Encountering Shakespeare

《仲夏夜之梦》让我们接受了一次宝贵的爱的教育。"真爱之路无坦途",这给追求真爱的人们带来慰藉、耐心与力量。现代社会中,人们在爱情及各方面对"颜值"都过分看重。"爱不在眼"恰是一剂对症的解药。这些台词深入人心,带给我们启迪。

From A Midsummer Night's Dream, we received a precious education on love. "The course of true love never did run smooth" gives comfort, patience, and strength in pursuing true love. "Love looks not with the eyes" serves as an antidote to the common modern preoccupation with appearance in almost everything, including love. Such lines entered our minds and enlightened us.

Meeting Tang Xianzu

遇见汤显祖

Tang Xianzu was a contemporary of William Shakespeare although each worked on different sides of the world and they never met. Both playwrights wrote about the complexities and contradictions of the human condition and both died in 1616. It was this unlikely coincidence that has tied these two great writers together for eternity. Shakespeare is known throughout the world whereas Tang Xianzu has remained an undiscovered treasure for most of the world until now. Like Shakespeare in his late plays, Tang's "dream" plays, written in the later part of his life, explore the values we might choose to live by and question the busy materialist life that does not allow time for self-searching and spirituality. Self-centred Chunyu is forced into an enlightening journey of love and political responsibility. Eventually, he finds an answer to a question he didn't know he needed to ask. Perhaps, like the Chunyu of our adaptation, when we finally lose the sense of our own importance, we begin to see what's important around us.

汤显祖与威廉·莎士比亚是同一时代的人。他们生活在地球的两端,从未见过彼此。两位剧作家都以人类社会的矛盾及错综复杂为创作主题,并都于1616年逝世。正是这一巧合让他们俩永远联系在一起了。与莎士比亚享誉全球的际遇不同,汤显祖仍是一块等待被发现的瑰宝。和莎士比亚的晚期戏剧一样,汤显祖在他生命晚期写就的以"梦"为主题的戏剧中探索了我们所选择的生命价值,并审视了这个让我们没有时间探索自我及灵性的忙碌的"物质主义"生活。以自我为中心的淳于棼被迫踏上了一段充满爱和政治责任的发人深省的旅途。曾经他以为并不存在的问题,最终他却找到了答案。或许,就像我们改编作品中的淳于一样,唯有当我们不再仅仅关注自身重要性时,我们才能了解他人的需求。



Reflections & Reviews 感想和评论

Through the creation and receipt of drama, we can explore another world and gain greater insight into our own.

通过创作与接受戏剧,我们不仅探索他人 的世界,也更深地理解了我们自己。

> Susan Daniels Project Advisor 项目顾问

"A unique global collaboration" 难得的国际合作

- Yorkshire Post 约克郡邮报

"Excellent adaptation of a Midsummer Night's Dream by a talented young cast. Chinese accents of the actors add to the charm of this cross-cultural performance." "这是一次对《仲夏夜之梦》的优秀改编!演员们略带中国口音的英文为这个跨文化作品带来别样的魅力。"

- Edinburgh Festival Fringe Fringe 爱丁堡艺穗节, Paul Drury

**** "A powerful experience, leaving a hunger for more.... The actors do well in mixing a naturalistic style with elements from Chinese theatrical tradition, giving a great introduction to a playwright little known in Britain"

**** "一次震撼人心的体验,让人不禁渴望更多…演员们将真实自然的表演风格与中国传统戏剧元素完美糅合,出色地向观众介绍了这位在英国甚少为人所知的剧作家"

- Edinburgh Festival Fringe To Do List 爱丁堡艺穗节活动清单



中国驻英国大使刘晓明贺词

欣闻中国对外经济贸易大学与英国利兹大学的师生共同创作《仲夏夜梦 南柯》, 谨致祝贺。

《仲夏夜之梦》与《南柯记》都是深受两国人民喜爱的经典剧目。此次两校师生以创新的方式把两剧融合,不仅为纪念莎士比亚与汤显祖逝世400周年的系列活动增光添彩,更为中英文化交流谱写新章。我衷心祝愿《仲夏夜梦南柯》演出圆满成功!

A Message of Congratulations from Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

It is a great pleasure to learn the coming of a new play *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough*, a piece of concerted efforts by teachers and students from the University of Leeds and the University of International Business and Economics. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations.

A Midsummer Night's Dream and A Dream Under the Southern Bough are the best classics and widely acclaimed plays in Britain and China respectively. Inspired by the two classics, teachers and students from the two universities have worked creatively to make them into one single piece. This new play will highlight the series of commemoration events that mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu. It also marks a new chapter in China-UK cultural exchanges. It is my sincere wish that the staging of this new play will be a complete success!

3~ U2.182

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leeds

阿兰·朗兰兹 爵士, 利兹大学 校长

In August 2014 I first heard about the project 'William Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu: celebrating a 400 year legacy'. I have been much impressed by its great imagination and boldness. The Shakespeare-Tang project, a pioneering intercultural dialogue, perfectly demonstrates our University's commitment to international collaboration and to excellence in education and research.

2014年八月,我第一次听说了'威廉·莎士比亚和汤显祖:欢庆四百年文化遗产'这个项目。它的想象力及大胆创新给我留下了深刻的印象。作为一个促进不同文化间对话的创举,莎士比亚一汤显祖项目完美地展现了利兹大学对于国际合作以及卓越教育研究的认同与投入。

Franky . . v

施建军 教授,对外经济贸易大学 校长 Prof. SHI Jianjun, President, University of International Business and Economics

对外经贸大学与利兹大学的师生合作,让汤显祖和莎士比亚两位大师相逢于一梦。《仲夏夜梦南柯》是两校友好合作的见证,也正如习近平主席去年10月访英时所讲,"共同纪念这两位文学巨匠,以此推动两国人民交流、加深相互理解。"感谢两校师生在过去两年为此项目所做的一切!

Over four hundred years ago, Tang Xianzu and Shakespeare wove two dreams respectively; today, the two great masters meet in one dream. This joint production witnesses the friendship between UIBE and UoL and promotes further the communication and understanding between China and UK. I am deeply impressed by the efforts of the faculty and students involved.



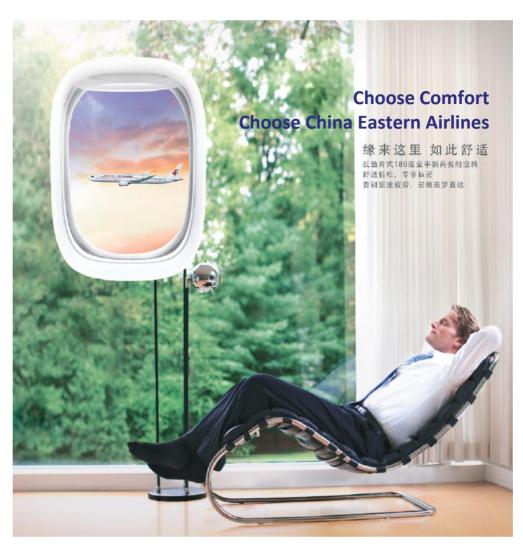
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